

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A filling valve for aseptic filling of alimentary liquids comprising:

a valve body;

a filling mouth;

a feeding conduit configured such that a product stream to be filled into a container flows through the valve body out of the filling mouth; and

an auxiliary conduit configured to supply aseptic gas, and/or inert gas, or a combination thereof and configured such that in an area near the filling mouth the product stream is isolated from the atmosphere by a coaxial flow of the aseptic gas, and/or inert gas or combination thereof;

wherein

the auxiliary conduit is arranged and configured such that the valve body is surrounded coaxially by the auxiliary conduit thereby ensuring that the aseptic gas, and/or inert gas, or a combination thereof completely surrounds the product stream in a circumference direction;

the valve body is configured for continuous outflowing of aseptic gas, inert gas, or combination thereof through the filling mouth for reducing a presence of oxygen in a top part of the container;

the filling valve is configured to maintain the aseptic conditions of the filling valve also when the filling valve is closed;

the auxiliary conduit, which is fed during a filling operation by a flow of the aseptic gas, inert gas, or combination thereof, for assuring an aseptic condition of the filling process, is configured to be used for a re-circulation of a sanitizing fluid that is fed by the feeding conduit; and

the filling mouth is closed by a lid in cooperation with a sliding manifold located on the valve body during sanitation of the filling valve.

Claims 8-11 (Canceled):

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A filling valve for an aseptic filling of alimentary liquids comprising:

a feeding conduit for a product stream to be filled in a container such that the product stream flows from a valve in an area near a filling mouth of the container underneath, wherein the product stream is isolated from the atmosphere by a coaxial flow of an aseptic gas, and/or an inert gas, or a combination thereof, which is fed by an auxiliary circuit surrounding ~~the~~ a filling valve outflow mouth, and wherein the auxiliary circuit, which is fed during a filling operation by a flow of the aseptic and/or inert gas for assuring an aseptic condition of the filling process, is configured to be used for a re-circulation of a sanitizing fluid fed by the feeding conduit; and

a lid, by which during sanitization of the filling mouth the valve is closed in cooperation with a sliding manifold, mounted on a body of the filling valve.

Claim 13 (New): The filling valve according to claim 7, further comprising a valve stem.

Claim 14 (New): The filling valve according to claim 7, further comprising at least one inlet conduit.

Claim 15 (New): The filling valve according to claim 7, further comprising an inter-space that surrounds the valve body.

Claim 16 (New): The filling valve according to claim 12, further comprising a valve stem.

Claim 17 (New): The filling valve according to claim 12, further comprising at least one inlet conduit.

Claim 18 (New): The filling valve according to claim 7, further comprising an inter-space that surrounds the valve body.